

Fremont Cottonwood

Populus fremontii

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau



Photo by John Aimes



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Shape/Size

Broad leaved, open crowned deciduous tree 35 to 90 feet in height.

Leaves

Yellow-green heart or triangular shaped leaves 2 to 4 inches long and wide with coarsely toothed edges. Leaves turn bright yellow in autumn.

Flower/Fruit

Male and female trees. Males produce flowering catkins up to 2 inches long with inconspicuous greenish yellow flowers before leafing out. Female trees produce shorter catkins and are sparsely flowered. The fruit is 3 valved capsule blown about as a very messy mass of cottony seeds. Flowers March to April.

Range

Common tree on stream banks, sandbars, and other riparian places below 6,000 feet in deserts and inland areas.

Flammability – Low.

Maintenance

Recommend removal of dead material and pruning to lift canopy off the ground.



Fuchsia-flowering Gooseberry

Ribes speciosum

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau

Shape/Size

3 to 8 feet tall with arching branches and spines $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long.

Leaves

Prominent shiny dark green leaves palmately lobed.

Flower/Fruit

Red, drooping flowers blooming January to May. Fruit is a bristly or spiny red berry persisting into summer on branches.

Range

Can grow in shaded canyons as well as sunny dry conditions. Commonly used as an ornamental in xerophytic landscaping.

Flammability – Low.

Maintenance

Makes a beautiful ornamental. Annual pruning to enhance vigor and remove excessive growth.



Photo by John Aimes



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Golden Currant

Ribes aureum

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau



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Shape/Size

Drought deciduous shrub 3 to 6 feet tall with smooth upright branches. Bark is gray or brown.

Leaves

Bright green leaves with 3 lobes, 1 to 2 inches long.

Flower/Fruit

Yellow tubular flowers turning red. Blooms January to June, grows in clusters of 5 to 15. Fruit is a cluster of small berries ranging from yellow, orange, red, or black.

Range

Common in coastal and inland foothills in chaparral and oak woodlands plant communities below 1,650 feet.

Flammability – Low.

Maintenance

Stump sprouts after fire or cutting. Recommend thinning of live and dead material. Remove vegetation under canopy.



Great Basin Sagebrush (Big Basin Sagebrush)

Artemisia tridentata

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau

Shape/Size

Shrub from 1½ to 9 feet tall and wide.

Leaves

Gray-green, 3 toothed leaves with shredding, fibrous bark. Characteristic, strong, aromatic sage odor.

Flower/Fruit

Inconspicuous green flowering stalks grow up from foliage (July to December).

Range

Grows from 1,500 to 10,000 feet elevation on desert side of the mountains and throughout major river basins extending towards the coast.

Flammability – Moderate. Due to die back, dead material buildup and ethers.

Maintenance

Generally recommended for complete removal within the first 0 to 50 feet of any structure. Thinned and spaced from 50 to 200 feet. Will resprout when burnt or cut to ground.



Photo by John Aimes



Photo by John Aimes



Greenbark Ceanothus

Ceanothus spinosus

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau



Photo by John Aimes



Photo by John Aimes

Shape/Size

Shrub 6 to 18 feet tall with smooth olive green bark. Main branches have short, rigid spine tipped branchlets growing at right angles.

Leaves

Thick, leathery, hairless and shiny on both surfaces. A midvein is noticeable on underside. $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long.

Flower/Fruit

Flowers are pale blue to white growing in clusters up to 6 inches long. Blooming February to May. Fruit is a sticky capsule with small horns.

Range

Dry slopes below 3,000 feet in coastal sage scrub and chaparral plant communities.

Flammability – Low to moderate depending on available fuel moisture.

Maintenance

Resprouts after fire or cutting from stump. Has significant wildlife value. Recommend keeping plants as a native ornamental for wildlife and erosion control. Remove dead material, lift canopy off the ground and light pruning to enhance open structure.



Hoaryleaf Ceanothus

Ceanothus crassifolius

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau

Shape/Size

Multi-branched shrub 6 to 11 feet tall. Grayish twigs with wart-like protrusions where leaves attach.

Leaves

Leaves grow opposite of each other and are oblong in shape $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch long, curling underneath with prominent prickly edges similar to holly. Leathery, olive green above; white, fuzzy below.

Flower/Fruit

Small white clusters of flowers prominent in spring. Fruit is a sticky capsule with short horns.

Range

Common chaparral shrub on dry inland slopes below 3,500 feet from Santa Barbara County to Baja California.

Flammability – Moderate.

Maintenance

Does not sprout from stump after fire or cutting. Recommended selective removal of thick stands with limbing up and deadwood removal from selected specimens. Shallow rooted, short lived on moister slopes, does better on drier south facing slopes.



Photo by Tim Knorr



Photo by Tim Knorr



Hollyleaf Cherry

Prunus ilicifolia

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau



Photo by John Aimes



Photo by John Aimes

Shape/Size

Evergreen shrub or tree 3 to 25 feet tall and as wide.

Leaves

Leaves remain year round. Up to 1 inch long. Dark green and shiny above and paler below. Coarse, twisted, spiny toothed margins similar to a holly leaf.

Flower/Fruit

Flowers on long cylindrical clusters up to 3 inches with small creamy white blossoms. Blooms in April and May. Fruit is a reddish-purple cherry drupe $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch across ripening during mid summer.

Range

Found on dry slopes and valleys below 5,000 feet in coastal sage, chaparral and oak woodland plant communities.

Flammability – Low.

Maintenance

Resprouts after fire or cutting from stump. Highly desirable species for cultural, ornamental, and wildlife value. Recommend removal of dead wood and lifting canopy off the ground so that duff and vegetation can be removed from below the shrub.



Joshua Tree

Yucca brevifolia

Information provided by the Forestry Division, Prevention Bureau



Photo by John Aimes

Shape/Size

Branched tree, 15 to 30 feet tall.

Leaves

Stiff, leathery, dagger-like leaves usually less than 12 inches long.

Flower/Fruit

Greenish white flowers, 8 to 14 inches long, bloom from April to May. The fruit is a pod 2½ to 4 inches long.

Range

Found on dry slopes bordering the Mojave Desert between 2,000 and 6,000 feet in Juniper and Joshua Tree woodlands.

Flammability – Low.

Maintenance

Recommend doing little other than removal of dead leaves and vegetation from around the base to eliminate horizontal continuity.



Photo by John Aimes

